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INDIA TO CONDUCT INQUIRY ON C. I. A.

Official Pledges a Watch on
All Foreign Intelligence

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NEW DELHI, March 23 — Foreign Minister M. C. Chagla told Parliament today that the Government would conduct a "thorough inquiry" into the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency in India.

Replying to a barrage of questions and charges about the American intelligence agency, Mr. Chagla promised increased Government vigilance to "unearth any activity that is objectionable, that is against the national interests."

However, despite persistent demands from Opposition benches, Mr. Chagla refused to commit the Government to the appointment of an independent commission to investigate the agency's operations here.

He made clear that equal vigilance would be kept over the activities of other countries' intelligence organizations here.

The Minister's statement followed an hour-long debate in the lower house of Parliament. It was the second such debate in four days and, if anything, it was more tumultuous.

It began with a long speech by Ramnath Umanath, a member of the pro-Peking Communist party from Madras, who said he was disclosing new facts about the "C.I.A. apparatus" in India.

Mr. Umanath said that the agency's headquarters in India was on the first floor of a build-

ing behind the American Embassy. He said the building had a radio antenna that linked it directly with Central Intelligence headquarters in Washington.

"Isn't that shameful," he asked, "that our country should be made the site of a major operating center of a foreign intelligence organization?"

Mr. Umanath also asserted that the "C.I.A. chief" in India was Leonard Weiss, the minister counselor for political and economic affairs in the embassy. Among the other agents operating out of the embassy, he said, was a man named "Schaffer." A second secretary in the political-economic section of the embassy is Howard B. Schaffer.

Mr. Umanath said both Mr. Weiss and Mr. Schaffer "meddled" in Indian politics in recent months.

He said Mr. Weiss flew to Calcutta earlier this year to help prevent the formation of a leftist united front against the governing Congress party and had also turned up in Bombay just as the Bombay Congress party was deciding to turn down V. K. Krishna Menon for the nomination from north-east Bombay. He said Mr. Schaffer had flown to Kashmir recently to influence political decisions there.

He demanded the immediate expulsion of Mr. Weiss, Mr. Schaffer and Robert F. Rayle, an embassy second secretary

who escorted Stalin's daughter, Svetlana, out of the country on March 7.

According to reliable sources Mr. Rayle is a C.I.A. agent. There is no evidence that Mr. Weiss or Mr. Schaffer is a member of the agency.

Mr. Umanath also charged that the Central Intelligence Agency was using certain organizations that it supported indirectly to influence Indian educational, cultural and political life. He listed the Asia Foundation, the Congress for Cultural Freedom and the Indian Assembly of Youth.

Mr. Umanath recalled that Deputy Prime Minister Morarji R. Desai and several prominent Indian industrialists were trustees of the Indian Assembly of Youth's International House.

"This proves that the C.I.A. here is being protected not only by the Congress party but by Indian big business houses," he said.

At this, Mrs. Tarakeshwari Sinha, a Congress party legislator from Bihar and a close political ally of Mr. Desai, jumped to her feet and charged that Mr. Umanath was being "selective" in the names he mentioned.

"I am as concerned as anyone about the influence of the C.I.A. in our country," she said. "But the Opposition names only Congress people. Why don't they name some of their own people!"

Mrs. Sinha then noted that

the Asia Foundation had given money to the Indian Society of International Law, whose sponsors include Mr. Krishna Menon, whom she described as "a well-known anti-American."

Mrs. Sinha said she was sure Mr. Krishna Menon did not know that the Society for International Law was getting Central Intelligence Agency money any more than Mr. Desai knew that the International House was getting it.

"They are all innocent victims," she said.

Mr. Chagla said he did not think any blame could be assigned to any person associated with organizations indirectly financed by the Central Intelligence Agency because "they did not know where the money came from."

However, he pledged, "We will try to get to the bottom of this and if we find that anyone knowingly took C.I.A. money we will take action."

He said the Government would also seek to discover whether anyone had been using foreign money to influence elections here. "We cannot permit foreigners or foreign governments to dictate to us what sort of a government we should have or what sort of people should be elected," he said.

However, he emphasized that this applied to any country, not just the United States. "I do not care what country is involved, what party is involved, what individual is involved," he said.

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